



american  
institute for  
conservation

**Preserving Cultural  
Heritage**

## **The American Institute for Conservation Honors Excellence in Preserving Cultural Heritage with Award Ceremony at 52nd Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah**

AIC's Annual Meeting convenes cultural-heritage conservation and preservation professionals for workshops, panels, presentations, and symposia exploring the theme of "Expect the Unexpected"

Washington, D.C. – May 20, 2024 – The [American Institute for Conservation](#) (AIC), the leading membership association for current and aspiring conservators and allied professionals who preserve cultural heritage, today announced the winners of the 2024 AIC Awards, a prestigious honor that recognizes outstanding and distinguished contributions to the field of cultural heritage conservation and preservation. The winners will be recognized at a May 21 ceremony at AIC's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City (May 20-25).

"Whether supporting communities in their recovery from devastating natural disasters or increasing the understanding of cultural heritage through education initiatives, the recipients of the AIC Awards are setting the bar for excellence in our field," stated **Suzanne Davis**, President of the American Institute for Conservation. "As we are excited to explore at the Annual Meeting, our work as conservation and collections care professionals often brings us into contact with unexpected challenges. The recipients show us how these challenges can be leveraged as opportunities for growth and the advancement of our field."

AIC represents more than 3,500 individuals in more than 40 countries around the world working in the domains of science, art, and history through treatment, research, collections care, education, and more. In partnership with the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC), AIC aims to help everyone understand that cultural heritage is an irreplaceable record of what makes us human and must be preserved for the sake of a society where all are valued and can thrive.

"We congratulate all the recipients of the 2024 AIC Awards and the FAIC Foundation Service Award for earning this distinction," stated **Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe**, Executive Director of the American Institute for Conservation and Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. "We look forward to gathering at the Annual Meeting to recognize their accomplishments and learn from their achievements."

**The 2024 recipients of the AIC awards are:**

**Forbes Medal** for distinguished contributions to the field of conservation and celebrates those whose work on a national or international platform has significantly advanced the preservation of cultural heritage:

Debra Hess Norris, FAIC Board member, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Chair, Department of Art Conservation and Professor of Photograph Conservation  
Unidel Henry Francis DuPont Chair of Fine Arts, Francis Alison Scholar 2018  
University of Delaware

**Robert L. Feller Lifetime Achievement Award** for exceptional contributions to the conservation profession throughout one's career:

Abigail B. Quandt, Head of Book and Paper Conservation, The Walters Art Museum  
Donna K. Strahan, Head, Department of Conservation and Scientific Research, National  
Museum of Asian Art

**President's Award** for exceptional work in helping collections caretakers in Maui, Hawai'i, respond to damage from the devastating August 2023 wildfires:

Liane Na'auao, Paper Conservator, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library  
Malia Van Heukelem, Archivist, Librarian and Collections Manager, University of Hawai'i  
at Mānoa Library

**FAIC Foundation Service Award** for outstanding service to the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation:

Max Marmor, recently retired President, Samuel H. Kress Foundation  
Antoine "Ton" Wilmering, recently retired Senior Program Officer, Getty Foundation

**David Magoon-University Products Conservation Advocacy Award** for conservation professionals who have advanced the field of conservation and furthered the cause of conservation through substantial efforts in outreach and advocacy:

Martha Singer, Chief Conservator, Material Whisperer

**Allied Professionals Special Recognition** award for the work and contributions from professionals in other fields to the advancement of the conservation profession:

Robin Hodgson, Owner, RH Conservation Engineering

**Emerging Leader Award** for outstanding service to the organization by a member in the early stage of their career:

Abed Haddad, Assistant Conservation Scientist, Museum of Modern Art

**Rutherford John Gettens Award** for outstanding service to the organization:

Kerith Koss Schrager, Head of Conservation, National September 11 Memorial & Museum  
Molly C. Gleeson, Head Conservator, Penn Museum

**Honorary Membership** for outstanding contributions to the conservation profession:

Tony Sigel, conservator of objects and sculpture in private practice

**Sheldon and Caroline Keck Award** for excellence in the education and training of conservation professionals:

Michael C. Henry, Principal, Michael C. Henry, LLC / Watson & Henry Associates  
Ann Shaftel, Director, Treasure Caretaker Training

**Publication Award** for excellence in an article or book on conservation:

*Properties of Plastics: A Guide for Conservators* by Thea van Oosten  
*Scientific Studies of Pigments in Chinese Paintings* by Dr. Blythe McCarthy and Dr. Jennifer Giaccai

**Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections** honors institutions in North America that have shown an exemplary and sustained commitment to conservation and collections care through interpretation, research, scholarship, education, and/or public outreach:

Walters Art Museum

**CAA/AIC Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation** recognizes outstanding contributions by one or more persons who, individually or jointly, have enhanced understanding of art through the application of knowledge and experience in conservation, art history, and art:

Han Neevel  
Birgit Reissland

### **About the AIC Annual Meeting**

The year's largest convening of AIC members and allied professionals, the 52nd Annual Meeting features more than 200 presentations in which conservators will share stories about conserving a remarkable diversity of artifacts and materials, including General Order #3 (colloquially known as "the Juneteenth order"), the outdoor iron cannons of the Gettysburg National Military Park memorial field, and textiles woven by Diné women in the 1800s that testify to resilience in the face of hardship. Addressing key issues in the field such as environmental sustainability and the need for inclusive mentorship, the program also includes a workshop dedicated to responding to emergencies that impact collections and tours of Salt Lake City's museums, libraries, conservation labs, and historic landscapes.

Bank of America is the Lead Sponsor of the AIC Annual Meeting, taking place May 20-25<sup>th</sup> at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Detailed programmatic and registration details can be found [here](#). The award ceremony on May 21 will be livestreamed and recorded for all AIC members.

### **About the American Institute for Conservation**

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) is the leading membership association for current and aspiring conservators and allied professionals who preserve cultural heritage.

We represent more than 3,500 individuals in more than 40 countries around the world working in the domains of science, art, and history through treatment, research, collections care, education, and more. All of them have the same goal: preserve our cultural heritage so we can learn from it today and appreciate it in the future.

Learn more at [culturalheritage.org](https://culturalheritage.org) and follow @conservators on [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#).

### **Press Contacts**

Hannah Holden / Shea Seery

Resnicow and Associates

[hholden@resnicow.com](mailto:hholden@resnicow.com) / [sseery@resnicow.com](mailto:sseery@resnicow.com)

212-671-5154 / 212-671-5173